

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/616,325

Examiner

Meagan Thomasson

Applicant(s)

OKUDA ET AL.

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/8/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 12/22/03, 12/22/03, 3/1/04, 2/2/04.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-17 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1, 15, and 16 are allowable over the prior art of record in that claim 1 discloses a video game apparatus featuring an enlarged image display means for producing enlarged images corresponding to positions designated by a plurality of players. Subsequent dependent claims further disclose a light projecting means and position detecting means for detecting the coordinate position of said projected light, as well as the image display means includes display precedence setting means for determining display precedence among overlapping designated positions. Prior art of record does teach a video game apparatus featuring light projection means and position detection means. In addition, prior art does teach an enlarged image display means for a similar video game apparatus, however there is no evidence of a plurality of players having the capability to designate multiple enlarged display images in accordance with the mutual relationship of their respective positions. Further, there is no evidence of display precedence setting means.

Claim 15 discloses a recording medium which stores a program, which is installed on a computer that is connected to a monitor and a plurality of operating input devices. Said recording medium is used to realize a game apparatus that allows play by a plurality of players via operating input devices, wherein said plurality of operating input devices function as position designating means that respectively designate desired

positions on game images, and as enlarged image display means that produce enlarged images corresponding to said designated positions in accordance with the mutual relationships of said respective positions. It is well known in the art to realize a video game apparatus by means of storing a program on a recording medium that is installed on a computer that is connected to a monitor and a plurality of input devices that act as position designated means. However, there is no evidence of an enlarged image display means that produces enlarged images corresponding to designated positions in accordance with the mutual relationships of the respective positions.

Claims 16 discloses an image processing method comprising the steps of receiving designated positions from a plurality of position indication means, respectively designated desired positions on a monitor, producing enlarged images corresponding to images displayed within specified regions that include said positions instructed by said position indication means, and displaying said respective enlarged images in accordance with the mutual relationships between said respective positions. Prior art of record teaches receiving designated positions from a plurality of position indication means and respectively designating desired positions on a monitor, however there is no evidence of enlarged image display means that displays enlarged images in accordance with the mutual relationships between said respective positions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

